

UNCLE SAM'S COINAGE

Some Historical Facts That Are Not Generally Known.

ORIGIN OF SILVER DOLLARS

Why the 1804 Dollars Are Scarce—Explanation of the Dollar Mark and the Motto, "In God We Trust."

The making of the first money in the United States began in 1786, but instead of the faces of representative statesmen it bore only the figure of Liberty. Some few coins were stamped with the face of Washington, and, of course, are highly valued by collectors. The first coins struck by the United States mint were some half dimes in 1792; the first were struck in France from old silver family plate furnished by Washington, the coins being known as "Mintus Washington dimes" from the circumstance as noted, and an adaptation of the Liberty head to that of Martha Washington.

The United States mint in San Francisco is said to be the largest of the kind in the world. The process of dime making there may not be without interest. The silver bullion is first melted and run into two-pound bars. These in turn are run through immense rollers and flattened out to the thickness of the coin. These strips are then passed through a machine, which cuts them into proper size for the presses, the strips first having been treated with a kind of talcum to prevent their being scratched in their passage through the cutters. The silver pieces are then put into the feeder of the presses, and are fed to the die by automatic machinery at the rate of 100 per minute, 48,000 dimes being turned out in a regular working day of eight hours.

As the smooth pieces are pressed between the printing dies they receive the lettered and figured impression; at the same time the die is expanded in a slight degree and the small corrugations are cut in its rim. The machine drops the completed coin into a receiver and it is ready for the counter's hands.

The first silver dollar was coined under the act of February 12, 1792, and weighed 419 grains and had a fineness of 892.4, which standard was continued for many years. The first coins struck for America, however, are supposed to have been the Summer Island shilling and shapene; the date of coinage, place and circumstances under which they were issued are unknown. The Summer or Summer Islands are the present Bermudas. The shilling was called a "Hogge-Penny," composed of copper, 5/16 of an ounce, weight 177 grains.

STORIES ABOUT THE 1804 SILVER DOLLAR.

The silver dollar, since the first introduction of the coin, has undergone many changes, all of which have had more or less effect in establishing a fixed value among collectors of rare coins. The issue of 1804 bears the palm in this respect and has won for itself the name of "The King of American Rare Coins." Only seven or eight of the 1804 dollars are known to be in existence. The "legend" of the scarcity is that a vessel bound for China had on board almost the entire coinage (\$19,570), and was lost at sea. Another story concerning this mysterious coin runs as follows: That the entire issue was shipped to pay the Yankee tars who fought in the war with Tripoli. The sailors drifted around after the war ended, and many of them went to Africa where they sold their money. The native kings collected all the coins and buried them as trophies. Perhaps Stanley might throw some light on the last version of the 1804 dollar.

The national motto, "E Pluribus Unum," on different United States coins, was never authorized by law to be so placed. Although the mint was established in 1792 the use of the motto on any of the gold, silver, or copper coins was not authorized or directed by any of the provisions of the act establishing it. None of the coins since 1836 bore the motto until the standard silver dollars were coined. It remained on the early gold and silver coins until 1834, when it was omitted from the gold coins. From the double eagle in 1866 it was also omitted. In 1833 it was dropped from the 25-cent piece, and the following year from all silver coins, the trade dollar only retaining it. The motto was first used on a half-penny or cent struck in New Jersey in 1786-7.

THAT RELIGIOUS MOTTO ON OUR COINS.

The motto "In God We Trust" has a curious history. Until 1804 no religious motto appeared upon American coins. In November, 1801, a clergyman addressed a letter to Mr. Chase, the secretary of the treasury, suggesting a recognition of the Deity on the coins. This letter was referred to James Pollock, an ex-governor of Pennsylvania and director of the mint at the time, but it was not until the mottoes could be changed without authority of law. In December, 1806, the director submitted plans for a new three-cent, two-cent and one-cent piece, on which it was proposed that one of the following mottoes be inserted: "Our Country, Our God," "God Our Trust," "In God We Trust." It was upon the two-cent piece authorized April 22, 1805, since abolished, that the motto of Secretary Chase first appeared. It was also stamped on the 1806 issue of the double eagle, eagle, half eagle, silver dollar, half dollar and nickel five cent piece in lieu of the long standing motto, "E Pluribus Unum." In the trade dollar issue, 1873, both mottoes were retained, "In God We Trust" appearing on the obverse.

WHAT THE TINY LETTER "M" STANDS FOR.

There is a popular idea prevalent that the minute letter "M" stamped on the neck of the Goddess of Liberty just at the point where the largest lock of hair crosses the neck line stands for "mint," and is an evidence of the genuineness of the coin bearing it. But this is a mistake. The "M" stands for Morgan—George T. Morgan, who is the originator of the design. He also stamped the letter "M" on the reverse side of the coin, on the left of the loop of ribbon tied above the wreath.

The design was subjected to a great deal of ridicule when the coin first made its appearance. The Cincinnati Commercial alluded to it as follows: "O, the design, we cannot say the art of it makes us rejoice. The eagle, we understand, it doesn't seem to resemble the bird of our country. In fact, we are afraid the design is a British grouse. There is also an absurd prominence given the 'In God We Trust,' which is a new thing in our coinage. The words should be 'One Hundred Cents.' But that, as the Hartford Courant justly remarks, 'is not the more a— of a wispower than the other.'"

A word of explanation is due Designer Morgan regarding the style and character of the "bustard" he produced. R. A. McClure, curator of the mint (one of our best known numismatists was of the world, by the way), is authority for the following: "If Designer Morgan had been allowed his own way in the matter there would

be no crying over the style of eagle borne upon our silver dollars, but they would have been stamped with a natural appearing bird instead of the present conventional one. Director of the Mint, Mr. Morgan, who was in charge at the time, designed Morgan's eagle, but the eagle's wings are phoenix-like, and, as a matter of course, he obeyed instructions."

Regarding the Liberty head on the obverse side, Mr. Zeller, the designer of the soldier's monument which is to be placed in Garfield square, Potomac, says: "I have sought everywhere almost for a true head of Liberty, and I have come to the conclusion that the best head is that which at the present time has a place on our silver dollar. I propose to use it on account of its being the best representative of Liberty that can, in my judgment, be found."

Mr. Morgan, in order to get the design for the head which was accepted, selected as his model Miss Anna Williams, a young school teacher, who had, Mr. Morgan said, "the purely American features."

AN EXPERT WHO WAS FOOLED.

Thomas Carvallo, the treasury expert who is said to be the best judge of money in the world, was recently sent to Birmingham, Ala., to testify as an expert in a counterfeiting case. He explained to the jury the secret marks on the silver dollar, v. z., the two "M's."

Drawing from his pocket a handful of coins, he left the witness stand and walked over to the jury box. "If you will look at these dollars very carefully," he said, "you will observe the marks to which I have alluded." He then distributed the dollars among the jurors and asked them to examine the coins.

After studying a while all but three of the jurors were able to make out the minute "M's." The expert Carvallo smilingly volunteered to point out the secret initials to the three gentlemen whose were not acute enough to detect them. Taking the three coins in his hand, he glanced at them casually. A puzzled look overspread his features; he closely scrutinized the dollars, walking over to the witness stand to get a better light. He turned to the jury and said: "Gentlemen, these coins will not illustrate the point I was attempting to impress upon you. They are counterfeits."

Before entering the counting room, Mr. Carvallo stepped into a grocery and had a \$20 changed in order to get enough dollars to pass among the jurors. Three of these coins were bogus.

WHAT DOES THE DOLLAR MARK MEAN?

Regarding the dollar mark, writers are not agreed as to the derivation of this sign to represent the word dollar or dollars. Some contend that it comes from the letters U and S, which, after the adoption of the federal constitution, were prefixed to the currency of the new United States, and which afterward, in the hurry of printing, were run into each other, the U being made first and the S over it. Others say that the contraction is from the Spanish pesos, dollars; others still believe it to be derived from the Spanish word fuertes, meaning hard, so called to designate silver dollars and gold from paper or soft money. The more plausible explanation of this puzzle is this: That it is a modification of the figure 8, and that the character, as we mark it, denotes that we are speaking, or writing, of a sum of money equal to 8 reales; or, as the dollar was formerly called, a piece of eight. In the early history of the dollar, when everybody knew it as a piece of eight, writers who had occasion to mention it in their articles did so by making this character:

The two 8s and the double hyphen gradually "evolved" until it came out as \$.

CUFF-BUTTONS FOR HEADACHES.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

"You know Charley Hayward of Hannibal?" asked a guest at the Grand Pacific last night. "Yes? I thought so. Nearly everybody does. He is in the revenue service, you know, and a good fellow. Well, a strange thing happened him the other day up in Wisconsin. He was afflicted with a roaring headache and an evasive cuff-button, but he kept his head and the ache, too, for that matter, and lost his cuff-button."

"On his way to the depot he went into a drug store and ordered three pills for the headache. One of these he swallowed at once and dropped the other two in his vest pocket. He then went into a notion store to purchase a cuff-button. The best thing in stock was a small pearl button, and he purchased two, putting one in his shirt cuff and dropping the other in his vest pocket. When he reached his train the first thing he did was to take another pill. He threw the headache globe into the street with the stick of an old practitioner, took a mouthful of water, and the ceremony was over."

"He felt better almost immediately, and spoke most enthusiastically of the efficacy of his pet remedy. The next morning he thought he would put away the remaining pill to knock out any future headache that might take him unawares. He found in his vest pocket two pills and no cuff button. He had taken the button instead of a pill the night before, and had been relieved of pain. He had, through accident, made a great discovery—had demonstrated the efficacy of a new remedy—and yet he is disposed to keep the matter secret."

DANCES JIG AT 108 YEARS.

From the Allentown, Pa., Chronicle-News.

Berks county is happy over the fact of having in its midst a dancing master who the other day danced at the age of 83 years, but South Bethlehem lays claim to a resident who "takes the shine completely off" the man from Berks. This remarkable resident of South Bethlehem is Mrs. Mary Gallagher, who says she is 108 years old and is able to dance a jig with the same agility that a young man of 25 could perform the feat. Mrs. Gallagher is a relative of John H. Kins, the proprietor of the Central hotel in the Sixth ward, and on a recent visit to this city she entertained her friends with an exhibition of her dancing. Mrs. Gallagher does her own washing and is apparently good for some years to come. Her sight is good and she is not required to wear glasses. She has three children ranging in age from 60 to 70 years.

More Afraid of a White Horse.

From Judge.

"Miss Chinnings is a candidate for secretary in our society," said the lady with dark glasses, "and she is sure of being elected."

"Aren't you afraid of a dark horse?" suggested her husband.

"Oh, no; not a bit of it. You see, Miss Chinnings has red hair."

M. Flammarion, the French astronomer, has suggested that in 30,000 years a great deal more advanced, intellectually speaking, than we are ourselves, and that they have optical instruments which excel ours as much as the Lick telescope surpasses a piece of colored glass. Mars, according to his theory, is an old planet, very old indeed, but one which has passed through all its hot periods.

MALADY FIGHTS MALADY

The Bacillus of Cancer Pitted Against That of Leprosy.

FIERCE BUT FUTILE WAR

Leprosy's Beautiful Victim Saved at Last by a New Method—Kept in a Tank of Oxygen Gas and Cured.

From the San Francisco Examiner.

Every disease has its bacillus and every bacillus has its natural enemy. The hope of scientists is that they may discover the natural enemy of each disease germ, and by introducing it into the blood the disease may be destroyed. Koch, Virchow, Pasteur and others are laboring in this field, and when the most successful results are reached in the practical application of their ideas, they should not be condemned for failure, because every mistake points out stumbling blocks to be avoided and are the stepping-stones to success. What of it if Koch's cure for tuberculosis did not fulfill its promises? asks a writer in the Albany Telegram. It was a start in the right direction, and out of it some time there will certainly come something of benefit to the human race. It may be years before the value of Koch's labors will be appreciated by the too envious members of an altogether too conservative profession, but what he has done for medicine will have justice done to it at no distant day.

The recent investigations of Virchow with the microscope have shown beyond doubt that there is a bacillus of leprosy. It resembles in many respects the bacillus of tuberculosis, but is about one-sixteenth larger. This has raised an important discussion among doctors and scientists as to the possibility of there being a relationship between the two diseases. They have both been classed among the incurable diseases, and are about the last of the list to be traced to the bacillus.

With the fact well authenticated, it was there and known by Virchow, about it, scientists will be put on the right track for the cure of the disease. Leprosy is the most peculiar disease on the list. It has been known as the way disease. This name comes from its history. It was there and known by Virchow, about it, scientists will be put on the right track for the cure of the disease. Leprosy is the most peculiar disease on the list. It has been known as the way disease. This name comes from its history. It was there and known by Virchow, about it, scientists will be put on the right track for the cure of the disease.

There were cholera houses everywhere established, and leprosy were sequestered as if the very sight of them would breed contagion. Their disease was believed to be contagious, and cholera were worn by every one to ward off the disease. The disease died out in a few years in England, and on the Continent the pest-houses were closed and leprosy was forgotten. In the signs of the present the world professes to see that another wave of leprosy is coming and will be a few years at its height and the disease be found in every community. This country, although it is out of the real leprosy belt, has certainly lost its power. Scientists are at a loss to explain this rise and fall of leprosy, particularly as there is a wide difference of opinion as to its being contagious. There are eminent men on both sides of the controversy, and each side has plenty of facts to support its position.

The best opinion on the subject is that the disease is caused by a spread of the bacillus of leprosy in some way that has not yet been discovered. It is not a matter of contagion, age, sex or mode of living. During the last year there have been more cases of leprosy found in this country than in the last 50 years, and the number seems to be slowly increasing. The McKinley bill cannot keep it out, and quarantine regulations are powerless to prevent it from coming into the country. This horrible disease broke down the barriers of wealth and luxury and stalked into the household of Charles D. Richards, the prominent tea broker. It of course attacked the fairest member of his flock, his favorite daughter Louise. How she ever got the disease must remain a mystery, until, at least, everything that is present is unknown.

The finest tea that comes to this market was used in Mr. Richards's family, and Miss Louise was in the habit of eating it without being cooked. It is possible that the bacillus of leprosy may have been in the tea and the young woman, by eating it, absorbed it into her system. The disease developed with even greater rapidity than in the Asiatic, and within the period of a year she had the leonine face and her hands, arms and legs were covered with foul ulcers. There were nodules on her back, which were spotted with green patches and promised soon to break into ulcers. Her mind was all right and the nature of her disease was kept from her. The best physicians in the city were her and said she was a mistake in the diagnosis. Whatever was suggested by the doctors was done for her relief, but there was no change made in her condition of impotence. Professor Bach, the expert in microbes, has long been working on the field of bacteria among the antagonistic microbes with a view of finding those that prey upon each other and fight to the death.

Long experiment in this microscopic world has shown that the bacillus of cancer and that of leprosy are deadly enemies. In the gelatine where they are artificially developed, when the bacillus of cancer and leprosy are brought together they fight the instant they are brought into contact and keep it up until one or the other dies. A record of this battle has been kept, and in the majority of cases the cancer has come off victorious. Dr. Debevoise thought that there might be something to benefit the patient in this fact, and injected some of the cancer bacilli into her chest. There was a slight improvement following the high fever which the introduction of a foreign substance produced in the body, but it was not permanent. Again and again the cancer tissue injected into the patient, but it soon became evident that although the bacillus of cancer were good fighters, the microbes of the leprosy were too powerful and would not be conquered. All that apparently remained for the patient was to patiently wait for death and pass through the rotten stages of the disease. Dr. Debevoise discovered an entirely new remedy in the cure of this horrible disease. It is a simple one, worked like a charm, and will undoubtedly revolutionize the treatment of this kindred maladies.

The patient was buried in oxygen gas diluted with air. She was made to breathe the gas also through a tube. This gas is known to be a great purifier, and an antiseptic. By a new combination of machinery in the old oxygen apparatus the gas could be increased in power almost to the extent of burning the flesh and exploding. In this way the microbes of leprosy were being burned to death in their little cells in the flesh, and if any of them were in the blood they were destroyed by the contact of

the blood with the oxygen in the lungs. The patient was kept in the oxygen bath for about a month and when she was taken out her skin was white as snow. Every ulcer had healed and the contracted muscles in the extremities regained their power. This case goes on the record as the first one of leprosy that has been cured, and Dr. Debevoise has been asked to explain his treatment to the County Medical society.

A COLUMN OF WATER

Was All That Kept Contractor Joe English 33 Feet in Air.

At the fountain hotel, St. Mary's, Ohio, yesterday, says a special to the Pittsburgh Dispatch, a large number of oil men from the various fields of Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and West Virginia were telling their experiences in the oil fields. The one that mostly attracted attention was a thrilling one by Joe English, a well-known contractor. His story was as follows:

"I was about 20 years old when the oil excitement broke out in my country, and was leading the uneventful life of a farmer's son. We lived on a farm of 150 acres within two miles of a prosperous town in Pennsylvania, and there was little excitement for any of us until some of the oil men from Ohio came down and built a rig on the Davis farm, about a quarter of a mile from our place. The greasy fluid was struck in paying quantities. A grand rush for territory followed, and in a very short time the farms around us were dotted with derricks, and the quiet country scene changed to one of that peculiar bustle and activity seen only in the oil country. I had put down several wells on the farm, and with fair success."

"I believe we had drilled in four wells, and all very good producers. No. 3 acted strangely on us. The day it came in it filled two 250-barrel tanks in four hours, and we lost considerable oil because of a lack of tanks. The well settled down, however, to about 300 barrels a day, and kept flowing at that rate for about five days, when it petered out altogether. Just 12 days after that well quit flowing I had the strangest and most peculiar experience that ever fell to the lot of an oil man."

"One day I was walking about the farm when some delayed figure work occurred to me, and I resolved to do it then and there. The abandoned well was near by. Knowing I would be secure from intrusion there, I walked into the derrick. An empty candy box, which I placed over the casing head, furnished a good seat. Producing pencil and paper, I proceeded in my own way to solve the problem of petroleum production. In just about two minutes the well began spurting salt water at a furious rate, and with such tremendous force that I was hurled high into the air, box and all. There is no use trying to describe my feelings. I was too thoroughly frightened to describe them. All I know is a man of 175 pounds was lifted violently heavenward."

"The column of water evidently struck the box exactly in the center, for we went up as straight as a plumb line. What is more, I never changed my seat, and in the very nature of things it was impossible to do so. The spurting water was of sufficient volume to entirely fill the box and send a pretty heavy aqueous wall on every side into the bargain. The box was not large, and, of course, my feet would naturally hang over under ordinary circumstances, but in this case the water threw my legs upward. This put me in a peculiarly uncomfortable, yet singularly safe, position. I sat there, head and legs inclined, so that I resembled the letter V, and was firmly held in that position by the outpouring torrent."

"I must have gone up fully 45 feet, but the initial force carried me higher than it could hold me, and I settled back about 15 feet, all the while maintaining the same position. When I reached that point where the attraction of gravity exactly counters the force of the water I stopped. The point was fully 35 feet from the ground. It was impossible for me to fall to either side, and equally impossible to fall straight down, for the spraying water played into that box with terrific force."

"The only movement I felt was the alternative rising and falling of the box occasioned by the contention between the attraction of gravity and propulsive force of gas and water. The only pain I experienced was in my legs, which soon became numb from the constant pounding of the water."

"The roar and the spurting water soon attracted the attention of the folks at the house, and after them came the neighbors, oil operators and others, until there was a crowd of several hundred people standing around within safe distance of the descending water. I couldn't see much of them, and of course couldn't hear a word they said. Gradually the pain seemed to grow less, and the next I knew I was in bed, and in a dreamy way saw the folks standing around."

"They told me how my final rescue came about. The well ceased flowing gradually, and finally petered out altogether. As the column of water dropped, the box, with its now insupportable burden, came down with it and rested exactly over the mouth of the well, whence it started. I fell over on the derrick floor and was picked up and carried out, and then into the house. I learned that instead of being up in the air for several hours, as I had supposed, I was up less than a minute."

Form For The Fair.

From the Chicago News.

A good deal of discussion is had over the ode which is to be read at the dedicatory exercises of the world's fair. The poet has not been named, and that minor detail will not be settled until it is determined what kind of an ode is wanted. It would be foolish to ask a lyricist to write an epic, just as it would be folly to look for a cooking stove in a dry-goods emporium.

The national commission seems to be agreed that what is wanted is an ode not too long nor yet too short. It must be sprightly enough to keep the auditors awake yet solemn enough to be dignified. At one time Lord Tennyson seemed likely to get the order for the job, but of late there has been exhibited a feeling in favor of a native poet, and last Friday morning one of the national commissioners suggested that the contract for the dedicatory ode be awarded to James Barton Key, the author of the "Star-Spangled Banner." Upon this Burnham objected, claiming that the item of the dedication ode properly belonged to the bureau of construction. An acrimonious discussion followed, and much feeling was evinced. Finally, however, the matter was referred to a special committee composed of the national commissioners from Wyoming, New Mexico, Virginia, Massachusetts and Kentucky, with President Thomas W. Palmer as ex-officio chairman. This special committee was authorized to meet at the call of the chairman and was empowered to send for persons and things. President Tom Palmer tells us that he shall insist upon only one point so far as the poem is concerned, and that is one involving the meter. Being a confirmed pedant, he will insist upon the poet's adopting for his rhythm that particular style of feet known as greater A-e-i-e.

The shell of an oyster in its native habitat is always a little open, and microscopic waving hairs set up currents which carry the food plants into the mouth, where they are engulfed and afterwards digested.

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